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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08527 161613Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------008532 161616Z /46
P 161557Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6799

S E C R E T CAIRO 08527

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EG
SUBJECT: FONMIN KAMEL'S MOOD

REF: CAIRO 8526

1. I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, DURING HIS EMOTION-CHARGED TALK WITH ME TODAY ON ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTH LEBANON AND OUR FAILURE TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT (REFTEL), KAMEL AT ONE POINT SAID THAT HE WOULD RESIGN AS FOREIGN MINISTER RATHER THAN COMPROMISE ON LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT A FAHMY, WHO HAD RESIGNED FOR TACTICAL REASONS AND BECAUSE OF FEAR. BUT HE, KAMEL, COULD NOT IN CONSCIENCE PARTICIPATE IN A PEACE PROCESS WHICH IS BASED ON CONDONING ISRAELI EXPANSIONISM AND DENYING THE PALESTINIANS THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS.

2. I TOLD KAMEL THAT, AS HE SHOULD KNOW, THIS IS NOT OUR PURPOSE. I URGED HIM NOT TO ACT HASTILY. HE SAID HE HAS NO INTENTION OF ACTING HASTILY, BUT THERE WERE SCME THINGS WHICH, AS A MAN OF CONSCIENCE, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT.

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3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE HEARD KAMEL TALK OF RESIGNING. HE IS DEEPLY UPSET ABOUT ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTH LEBANON AND, WHILE PROFESSING NOT TO BE "NERVOUS," AS HE PUTS IT, HIS EMOTIONS QUICKLY GET THE BETTER OF HIM. I EXPECT THAT, IF KAMEL WERE TO MENTION IT TO SADAT, PRESIDENT WOULD ALSO SEEK TO DISSUADE HIM AND

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WOULD SUCCEED IN DOING SO. IT WOULD CLEARLY NOT BE IN EITHER SADAT'S OR USG'S INTERESTS IF A SECOND EGYPTIAN FONMIN RESIGNED IN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS TIME. THIS WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON AN ALREADY SOGGY PEACE PROCESS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PBOR, EG, IS, XF
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